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THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED
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Letter dated 20 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has received disturbing reports that individuals residing in the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro), who are former residents of the Republic of Croatia, have been forcibly mobilized and taken to military barracks in Sremska Mitrovica (Serbia) from which they have been sent to the occupied territories of Croatia for military service. The information indicates that this mobilization is being conducted with the full support of the Serbian police and the Yugoslav Army. These reports have been confirmed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, international news agencies, independent Serbian newspapers and by non-governmental organizations within Serbia.

It must be stressed that the individuals who have been mobilized are not only those Croatian citizens of ethnic Serb origin who have arrived recently in Serbia and received refugee status from the authorities of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro), but also individuals who have migrated to Serbia from Croatia some time ago and who hold citizenship in the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro).

According to reports which we have received, armed men wearing the insignia of the "Military Police of Krajina" have been allowed to operate in cities in the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro) and take away men of military age in order to force them to join Croatian Serb paramilitary forces

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which are assisting in Belgrade's occupation of certain territories of the Republic of Croatia. On 16 June, the newly assigned military commander of the Croatian Serb paramilitary forces in Knin, Yugoslav Army General Mile Mrksic, admitted that the actions were coordinated with the Yugoslav Army and the Interior Ministry of Serbia. Croatian Serb paramilitary authorities in Knin also recently confirmed the arrival of "volunteers" and "draft-age men" who were sent to the front lines to "defend western Serb lands".

It must be noted that prior to becoming the commander of the Croatian Serb paramilitary forces, Mile Mrksic held the position of Assistant Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Yugoslavia at Belgrade, and he is still a commissioned officer of that Army. He is still being compensated by the Yugoslav Army, as are hundreds of other officers of the Croatian Serb paramilitary forces. This has been confirmed by documentation presented by the Republic of Croatia (S/1995/229-S/1995/401). This fact, as well as the facts noted above, are a further example of the measures that the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro) has been undertaking in its continuation of the occupation of territories of the Republic of Croatia, in violation of General Assembly resolution 49/43 of 9 December 1994 entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Croatia".

Furthermore, the actions of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro) represent non-cooperation in the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as external interference in respect of the full implementation of the United Nations peace-keeping plan for the Republic of Croatia. In this respect, I wish to remind that Security Council resolution 871 (1993) of 4 October 1993 states that such behaviour will have serious consequences and that these kinds of actions will be taken into account regarding full normalization of the international community's position towards those who engage in such actions.

Additionally, the Security Council in its resolution 981 (1995) of 31 March 1995 decided that the mandate of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) should include assistance in the prevention of military interference in Croatia from outside, including the crossing of military personnel over Croatia's international borders with the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (Serbia and Montenegro).

I would be grateful for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under item 92 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative